Restoration of CGHS Facilities to the Pensioners

957. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the facilities of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) being enjoyed by the pensioners of Ammunition Factory, Kirkee, H. E. Factory, Kirkee, Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road and certain other installations at Pune till the end of 1981, have been discontinued;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the position and restore the facilities of the scheme to these pensioners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) The facilities of CGHS were extended to the pensioners of the Ammunition Factory, Kirkee and Ordnance Factory at pune in October, 1981. However, as it was brought to the notice of the Government that the employees of Ordnance Factory and allied establishments are covered either under Factory Medical Regulations or under CS (MA) Rules and in view of the policy that such Government servants who are not covered under CGHS during their service period are not eligible for CGHS facilities after their retirement the facilities extended to the pensioners of the Ordnance Factory establishments were dis-continued since January, 1982.

Halt of trains at Kurduwadi junction

958. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being experienced by about 22,000 to 25,000 pilgrims for the famous religious centre, Pandharpur, Maharashtra on the Narrow gauge line Latur-Miraj;

(b) whether Government have received suggestions to make 905 Up and 906 Dn Bangalore-Nizamuddin Express and 145 Dn and 146 Up Nav Jeewan Express, halt at Kurduwadi Junction in the Central Railways; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon and what other alternative steps are being taken by Government to provide relief to the pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) to (c) Stoppage of 905 Up/906 Dn Bangalore-Nizamuddin Express and 145 Dn/146 Up Nav Jeewan Express at Kurduwadi has been examined and not found justified as these are long distance trains running to vary tight schedule with very limited stoppages enroutes. However, Kurduwadi is served by 9 pairs of trains including 6 pairs of Mail/Express trains. The Narrow Gauge trains on Kurduwadi-Pandharpur/Latur section maintain important connections with these trains at Kurduwadi.

Homeopathic Doctors in Indian Railways

959. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Homeopathic doctors employed in the Indian Railways;

(b) whether there is a proposal to augment their strength; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?